



Child Care Fact Sheet

Background:

In 2006, the McGuinty government took a one-time federal payment for child care and spread it over four years. Each year \$63.5-million went to support child care services in Ontario. This year the money runs out!

The McGuinty government has had four years to plan for 2010. Now child care supporters want to know – Premier McGuinty, what is your plan?

Child care is a provincial responsibility. Municipalities get money from the province to provide child care services. If the province does not replace the \$63.5-million when it announces this year's provincial budget, municipalities across Ontario will make dramatic cuts to child care.

Impact on families:

- Fees will increase and subsidies will be cut.
- Thousands of families will lose access to safe, quality care for their children.
- Parents will be forced to use for-profit and unregulated child care.
- Parents may have to leave their jobs or postpone going back to school.

Impact on programs:

- Child care centres will face declining revenues and empty spaces.
- Quality programs that pay higher wages, like those run by municipalities and many not-for-profits, will have the most difficulty remaining open.
- Centre closures will mean staff layoffs.
- For-profit operators will take the opportunity to undercut higher wage, higher quality programs, by lobbying for cheaper child care services.

Impact on communities:

- Important child development programs will be lost
- Thousands of parents waiting for child care will not get it
- Communities will lose decent paying jobs
- There will be fewer supports to employment

Impact on McGuinty's plan for Full-Day Learning:

The province has announced full-day learning for 4 and 5 year-olds starting this September. When the program is rolled out over the next few years, these children will have access to high quality, public child care in their schools.

Children under the age of 4 deserve access to the same high quality care. That won't happen if our quality child care programs collapse due to lack of funding.

What should McGuinty do?

Premier McGuinty should announce funding to stabilize child care in the 2010 provincial budget, and provide the funding and tools needed to make Full-Day Learning a real success.

Take action!

Lobby your MPP in writing. MPP's assume that if you are willing to hand write a letter and send it to them, that you will get out and vote on election day. *Form letters and even petitions don't have the same impact.* See our sample MPP letter for ideas on what to say. Remember to include your name and address, and make it clear that you expect a response from your MPP. If you don't know the name of your MPP, you can call Service Ontario at 1-800-267-8097 to find out. To look up your MPP go to www.electionsontario.on.ca and simply enter the home address in the Find Your Electoral District search engine.

Please copy your letter to CUPE Ontario at info@cupe.on.ca or fax it to 416-299-3480. We are holding public meetings across the province and we want to ensure we can invite child care supporters like you.